

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, and an affront to the privilege they enjoy of free access to the public airwaves.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. In this case, the public interest could be served by genuine debates between people holding different political viewpoints, but instead the public airwaves will be hijacked, days before an election, for what can only be described as a biased, misleading, partisan attack. To call this "news" is ludicrous--it's an attempt to manipulate the electorate using the techniques of modern media.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They also show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I oppose the renewal of all licenses for Sinclair broadcasting in the future, and particular WTTV-4 in Indianapolis, which is my local station. Thank you.